

J.M.J.

December 3, 1975

Dear Charles,

Merry Christmas! I probably won't write another letter to you until after the Holiday season.

Fr. Aloysius has asked me to write to you on a very important matter.

Russell Gilbert told Father in a recent letter (a copy is enclosed) that he considers his vocation is with the M.A.P. Fr. sees Russ as an excellent vocation for the M.A.P., and Father wants Gilbert to join you in Burgos at the end of the present academic year. Over the summer months Gilbert will perfect his Spanish.

Father Aloysius has also arranged the expenses for Gilbert's education. The one proviso is that if he does not persevere he will be obligated to pay back the money to the M.A.P. This Christmas Russ will meet his sponsor. This will be done privately for reasons of prudence.

It is important for you and Fr. Alonso to discuss this matter and decide whether to accept Gilbert into the M.A.P. for the coming academic year. Fr. Alonso will have to obtain the permission from the Archbishop of Burgos. Russ has the necessary documents in order, and he has a financial sponsor, so ecclesiastical permission should be no problem. After you and Fr. Alonso have made your decision let me know, as I am handling this matter for Fr. Aloysius. (Father does not want any correspondence on this to or from the provincial house.) Send your decision to me at the Burbank address: 4010 Oak, Burbank As we would like to hear from you as soon as possible, you CA might send a night letter (telegram) since the Christmas season 91505 will slow the mails.

To reiterate, here are the reasons Fr. Aloysius wants Gilbert to join you in Spain: 1st It will secure us an excellent vocation for the M.A.P. If we do not accept him now, Father Aloysius feels we will lose him. 2nd, Russ is intelligent, and Fr. thinks your mutual conversations will be highly beneficial for "concretizing" the future rule and apostolate of the M.A.P. when it is re-congregated. 3rd, your mutual friendship will lend support for your spiritual development. 4th this will provide Fr. Alonso further encouragement about the M.A.P. It will also encourage the members of our lay institute.

Have a joyfull Christmas, and keep us ;in your prayers, as you are in ours.

Sincerely in the Blessed Sacrament and the Immaculate Heart,

